

Mr Chairman,

I would like to begin by thanking you for the remarkable organization of this Summit. Rarely has a meeting on nuclear security been more necessary in my view.

There was the nuclear accident in Fukushima, which showed how much we needed to enhance security rules worldwide, as well as how much we needed to create international accident response capabilities. I would like to congratulate IAEA for the organization's role, in particular to learn lessons from this accident.

There is also the question of the nuclear policies, contrary to international law, which are being conducted in Iran but also nearby in North Korea, which underscore the urgency of the fight against nuclear proliferation.

And there is a third risk, which needs our fullest attention. That is nuclear terrorism and radiological terrorism.

The Washington Summit was a very important step in accounting for this threat, thanks to the personal involvement of President Obama, and on this point I would like to thank him for his commitment to peace in the world and, if he so permits, to tell him that we hope he will pursue this commitment.

France has met the commitments made in Washington.

We have renewed and enhanced our regulations on the protection and control of nuclear facilities and materials and their transport.

We asked IAEA to conduct a mission in November 2011 to assess our national nuclear security scheme. This mission covered all our regulations, but also the situation on the ground in the largest plant in Western Europe. I am pleased that IAEA's final report described our scheme as extremely robust.

I would also like to say that we encourage all the countries present today to launch a similar exercise, and we invite them to participate in the first international seminar dedicated to lessons learnt from IPPAS missions, which will take place in 2013, hosted by France in collaboration with IAEA.

I would like to add that the 2005 International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material will be ratified by the French Parliament in the coming weeks, and France calls upon all States which have not yet done so to accede as quickly as possible.

We are also fully committed to cooperation.

I would like to present three examples.

I will begin by mentioning the progress made during the French G8 Presidency in 2011, in particular regarding the extension of the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and their related Materials.

I would like to move on by mentioning our assistance to governments, in partnership with

the United Nations, for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540, aimed at stopping terrorists from obtaining technology linked to weapons of mass destruction. Lastly, there is the action we conducted alongside IAEA to identify all the used radioactive sources of French origin worldwide and to secure those that could represent a risk.

We have now completed that survey.

Last year we conducted a first repatriation operation in Madagascar. Several other security operations should be completed in 2012 and 2013, for example in Morocco, Costa Rica, Sudan, Lebanon and the Philippines.

Mr Chairman,

France considers that there are three matters which need our full mobilization.

The first is for radiological terrorism to be given greater attention.

The use of radiological sources for malicious purposes is now a real threat, which must be distinguished from terrorist use of a nuclear weapon. Starting from this Summit, this matter of the use of radioactive sources needs to be handled as a subject in its own right.

The second is research.

We need to continue developing processes to move away in the medium term from the use of highly enriched uranium to fuel research reactors and for the production of radioelements for medical use.

France is itself going to contribute through programmes to develop new fuels, through the work to convert existing research reactors and thanks to completely new technologies, which we will use for the Jules Horowitz research reactor, currently under construction in Cadarache.

Lastly, the third matter regards training.

When we created the International Institute of Nuclear Energy alongside teaching, research and nuclear industry actors in 2011, it was particularly with the promotion of a culture of safety and security in mind.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To address the challenges of climate change, challenges whose consequences would, I must underline, be much graver than those of any other technological accident, growing energy needs and the progress of medical research, we cannot do without the advantages of nuclear energy.

Nuclear is and will remain an instrument for global progress.

This is why we must, together, ensure faultless vigilance on all the requirements attached to the use of nuclear power.

It is our responsibility and our duty. Allow me, Mr Chairman, to seize this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the organization's total commitment to finding a peaceful solution to the Syrian conflict.

This is my opportunity to say that to him.